



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE N.E., SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1200

March 2, 2022

Mr. Michael Yox
Regulatory Affairs Director
Southern Nuclear Operating Company
7825 River Road, BIN 63031
Waynesboro, GA 30830

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
PLANT UNITS 3 and 4 – NRC REPORT 05200025/2021012 AND
05200026/2021012

Dear Mr. Yox:

On February 7, 2022, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP) Units 3 and 4. The NRC reviewed inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment during this period and the NRC's plans for future inspections at your facility.

Overall, the NRC determined that VEGP Units 3 and 4 were being constructed in a manner that preserved public health and safety. The NRC determined the performance at VEGP Unit 3 at the end of the assessment period was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Construction Reactor Oversight Process (cROP) Action Matrix (CAM) because two findings of low-to-moderate (i.e. White) safety significance remain open at the time of this assessment. The findings were documented in NRC Special Inspection Report 05200025/2021011, "Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 3 – Final Significance Determination of a Preliminary White Finding, a Preliminary Greater Than Green Finding, Notice of Violation, and Assessment Follow-Up Letter," (NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21312A412). In the final significance determination report, the NRC notified you that in accordance with Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2505, "Periodic Assessment of Construction Inspection Program Results," dated November 25, 2020, the performance at VEGP Unit 3 was in the Regulatory Response Column of the CAM beginning third quarter of 2021 (July 1, 2021).

Therefore, in addition to conducting cROP baseline inspections at your Unit 3 facility for the 2022 calendar year, the NRC also plans to conduct a supplemental inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure (IP) 90001, "Construction Regulatory Response Column Inspections," dated October 27, 2010. This IP is conducted to verify that the root and contributing causes for the performance issues are understood, the extent of condition and extent of cause are identified, and the corrective actions are sufficient to address the root and contributing causes and to preclude repetition. In a letter dated January 11, 2022, "Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Unit 3 – Assessment Follow-Up Letter for Inspection Report 05200025/2021011," (ML22011A275), the NRC noted that per conversations with your staff, the NRC plans to conduct the supplemental inspection in the first calendar quarter of 2022. Should anything change regarding scheduling the supplemental inspection, we request that you notify us.

The NRC determined the performance at VEGP Unit 4 at the end of the assessment period was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's cROP CAM because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct cROP baseline inspections at your Unit 4 facility for the 2022 calendar year.

For this assessment period, the NRC identified a cross-cutting theme in the area of Human Performance. Specifically, in 2021, VEGP Units 3 and 4 had 21 findings with cross-cutting aspects (CCAs) in Human Performance, as described in Appendix F "Construction Cross-Cutting Areas and Aspects," of IMC 0613, "Power Reactor Construction Inspection Reports," dated November 4, 2020. The NRC determined a construction substantive cross-cutting issue associated with the 21 CCAs did not exist because this was the first occurrence of a cross-cutting theme and did not represent repetitive performance by the licensee from the previous assessment period. The NRC does not have a concern with your staff's scope of effort and progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme. We recognize this issue has been entered into your corrective action program and a causal analysis was initiated to document, evaluate, and correct the adverse conditions. The NRC will continue to monitor your staff's effort and progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme until the criteria are no longer met.

The NRC issued Confirmatory Order (CO) for EA-18-130 and EA-18-171 in November 2019 ((ADAMS) Accession No. ML19249B612), and then conducted a follow-up CO inspection in December 2020, which was documented in "Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 3 and 4 – NRC Confirmatory Follow-up and Safety Conscious Work Environment Inspection Reports 05200025/2020012,05200026/2020012," (ML21025A145). The NRC continues to maintain oversight of the safety conscious work environment (SCWE) at VEGP Units 3 and 4 through normal and CO follow-up inspection activities. In 2022, the NRC plans to verify all actions have been completed for the three remaining open CO commitments, which are items 3a, 3c, and 4d.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 2022. The supplemental inspection per IP 90001, the CO follow-up inspection, and the routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed are tentative and may be revised based on construction activities at the site. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Nicole Coover at (404) 997- 4510 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Marissa Bailey, Director
Division of Construction Oversight

Docket Nos.: 52-00025, 52-00026

License Nos.: NPF-91, NPF-92

Enclosure:

Vogtle Units 3 and 4 Inspection Plan

cc w/ encls: Distribution via LISTSERV

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING
PLANT UNITS 3 & 4 NRC REPORT 05200025/2021012 AND
05200026/2021012

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OFFICIAL AGENCY RECORD

Vogle Units 3 and 4 Inspection Plan

This enclosure lists the Inspections, Tests, Analyses, Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) and program inspections expected to be completed in 2022.

Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2503 – Inspections, Tests, Analyses, Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC) Inspections

Unit 3: All of Unit 3 ITAAC inspections will occur prior to the 10 CFR 52.103(g) finding.

Civil

- Structural reconciliation ITAAC inspections for the shield building
- Flood barriers walkdown and report review

Mechanical

- Review of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) final system reports
- Flood barriers walkdown and report review
- Containment vessel interior/exterior coatings
- As-built pipe rupture hazard analysis report
- Equipment Qualification Reconciliation Reports (EQRRs)

Electrical

- Electrical physical separation ITAACs
- As-built walkdowns of Structures, Systems, and Components (SSCs)
- EQRRs

Initial Test Program (ITP)/Operation Programs

- Component and preoperational tests
- Security

Unit 4: The following is a list of Unit 4 ITAAC related inspection activities that are expected to occur in the first to fourth quarter of 2022. Inspection schedule is subject to change based on licensing and construction activities.

Civil

- Final structural inspections of the auxiliary and shield buildings (Including structural reconciliation ITAACs)

Mechanical

- Completion of welding and nondestructive examination inspections
- Containment structural integrity tests
- Reactor coolant system (RCS) hydrostatic testing
- Installation of key valves (RCS safety, squib)
- Review of ASME reports
- As-built walkdowns of SSCs

Electrical

- Electrical and instrumentation ITAACs
- As-built walkdowns of SSCs

Vogle Units 3 and 4 Inspection Plan

ITP/ Operation Programs

- Component and preoperational tests
- Security

IMC 2504 – Construction and Operational Program Inspections

Construction Programs - Appendix A

Unit 3: Planned prior to 10 CFR 52.103(g) finding

- CO/SCWE
- IP 40600, ITAAC Maintenance

Operational Programs - Appendix B

Unit 3: Planned prior to 10 CFR 52.103(g) finding

- IP 64705, Fire Protection
- IP 73758, Preservice Testing/Motor Operated Valves/Inservice Testing – 1Q and 2Q 2022
- IP 35101, QA for Operations – 1Q 2022
- IP 81000.04, Physical Security – 1Q 2022
- IP 81000.05, Physical Security – 1Q 2022
- IP 51080, Environmental Qualification – 1Q 2022
- IP 73754, Preservice Inspection – 1Q 2022
- IP 73757, Preservice Inspection Data Review – 1Q 2022
- IP 83535, Control of Radioactive Materials and Contamination, Surveys, and Monitoring
- IP 83746, Offsite Dose Calculation Manual
- IP 84527, Solid Waste Management
- IP 84528, Liquid Waste Management
- IP 84529, Gaseous Waste Management

Planned post 10 CFR 52.103(g) finding

- IP 73753, Inservice Inspection
- IP 81000.09, Cyber Security

Unit 4

- IP 73754, Preservice Inspection – 2Q 2022
- IP 73757, Preservice Inspection Data Review – 3Q 2022
- IP 81000.02, Physical Security – 2Q 2022
- IP 81000.03, Physical Security – 2Q 2022
- IP 81000.04, Physical Security – 3Q 2022
- IP 81000.05, Physical Security – 3Q 2022
- IP 81000.11, Physical Security – 2Q 2022
- IP 81000.14, Target Set Walkdown – 2Q 2022

Vogtle Units 3 and 4 Inspection Plan

- IP 51080, Environmental Qualification – 2Q 2022
- IP 64705, Fire Protection – 2Q 2022
- IP 73054, Inservice Inspection – 4Q 2022
- IP 62712, Maintenance Rule – 3Q 2022
- IP 73758, Preservice Testing/Motor Operated Valves/Inservice Testing – 2Q 2022
- IP 84527, Solid Waste Management – 3Q 2022
- IP 84528, Liquid Waste Management – 3Q 2022
- IP 84529, Gaseous Waste Management – 3Q 2022
- IP 83531, Contamination and Groundwater – 3Q 2022
- IP 35101, Quality Assurance for Operations – 2Q 2022
- IP 83536, Radiation Protection Facilities – 3Q 2022
- IP 50054, Reactor Vessel Material Surveillance – 3Q 2022